

the division of accounting rate needs to be on non 50:50 basis.

(c) Federal Communication Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making suggesting reduction in the International Accounting Rates was a general notice addressed to all countries of the World and this notice was not routed through W.T.O

(d) Does not arise.

Sapphire Mines in Jammu and Kashmir

6326. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sapphire mines of Padder area of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir are in a bad state of affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to exploit costly sapphire from these mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government propose to entrust this ask to some Central agency; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (f) As per information available, the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir had appointed one NRI Shri Laxman Rawat in 1988 as sole agent for exploitation of sapphire deposits and J.K. Minerals Ltd. (a State PSU) entered into an agreement with him for the purpose. However, the Central Government did not approve this arrangement. Meanwhile M/s Golden Films and Finance Ltd. filed a writ petition in Jammu and Kashmir High Court against the appointment of Shri Rawat. Further action can be taken by the State Government after the case is decided by the Hon'ble High Court.

Improvement of Railway Transportation in Darjeeling

6327. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are considering to improve Railway transportation in Darjeeling, West Bengal;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) It is planned to provide 3 new narrow gauge locos for introduction on this section. 18 new coaches have already been pressed into service.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inoperative Airports

6328. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of airports are lying inoperative for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of airports out of them made operational so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During the last 3 years 27 airports were not in operation.

(b) and (c) Airports are closed because none of the airlines are operating any flights to those locations. It is entirely for the airlines to decide whether they would operate their flights to any particular airport. Airports Authority will provide the necessary facilities for safe operation to such airports. During the last 3 years, four airports at Akola, Hubli, Kota and Gaya have been made operational.

[English]

World Bank Project at Sunderbans, West Bengal

6329. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Sundarbans; West Bengal with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the tourism related project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism does not have any proposal to seek the assistance of World Bank for the development of tourism in Sundarbans. However, the Department of Tourism sanctioned central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 200.44 lakhs for various projects in Sundarbans.

Computerised Reservation Facilities

6330. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide computerised Railway reservation facilities in easily accessible towns of rural areas of the country to save the money and time of the people; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to provide computerised Railway Reservation Services at Jaipur Keonjhar Road Junction which is beneficial for several Districts of Orissa and significantly contributing to Railway economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Provision of computerised passenger reservation facilities is an on-going process and these facilities are provided at stations as per norms and subject to the availability of funds. The reservation work load at Jaipur Keonjhar Road Junction is much less than the criterion of reservation related transactions per day and does not justify provision of these facilities at present. It can be considered when the criterion is met.

Survey for New Railway Line under Eastern Railway

6331. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey work has been undertaken for new Railway line under Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the details are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Survey
1	2
1.	Updating of survey for a new line from Rajgir to Gaya.
2.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-traffic Survey for a new BG line from Giridih to Koderma.
3.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Ranchi-Hazaribagh-Gaya.
4.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Sealdah-Dumdum
5.	Updating Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Girdih to Koderma.
6.	Final Location Survey and detailed investigations for the Gunga bridge at Patna.
7.	Reconnaissance type feasibility-cum-traffic survey for new line from Tarakeshwar to Arambagh.
8.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for reopening of Bongaon-Petrapole rail line.
9.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Dehri-on-Sone to Barwadih.
10.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Koderma-Hazaribagh-Garwa road.

1	2
11.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Chunar to Sasaram.
12.	Updating of Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG from Dumka to Baidyanath Dham.
13.	Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Pirpainti to Merry-go-round of NTPC.
14.	Reconnaissance Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for Gaya-Chatra BG rail line.
15.	Survey for Fatua-Islampur-Rajgir-Manpur-Gaya line.
16.	Reconnaissance Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Budge to Falta.
17.	Reconnaissance Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line between Budge Budge-Namkhana-Frazerganj.

Shortage of Pilots in IA and AI

6332. SHRI K.S. RAYADU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Indian Airlines and Air India are short of pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many pilots have resigned to join other airlines; and

(d) the reasons for such resignation and steps taken to prevent resignation in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of Commanders in Indian Airlines. However there is a shortage of 28 trained Commanders in Air India.

(c) and (d) No Pilot has resigned from Indian Airlines after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Management and Indian Commercial Pilots Association in January, 1996.

Three Commanders and one Co-Pilot resigned from Air India during the period from 1st January, 1996 to 30th April, 1997 on grounds of personal/medical reasons. Air India is taking steps to introduce productivity linked incentive schemes to make the total package of allowances attractive for pilots.

IA Crack Force

6333. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "IA crack force to tame passengers" appearing in the Delhi edition of the Indian Express dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the results